



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



December 19, 2013

Dear Colleague:

Today we are delighted to announce the 2013 Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge winners. We received 17 applications for the 2013 competition. We know that meaningful change in early learning and development — the kind that results in dramatically better outcomes for all of our children — comes from setting the highest expectations and doing the hard work of comprehensive reform.

We received many strong proposals and are pleased to announce awards to six states: Georgia, Kentucky, Michigan, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Vermont. These six distinguished states join the fourteen current Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge grantees. Their efforts to build high-quality early learning and development systems will help prepare children with the skills, knowledge, and outlook toward learning they need for success.

We will be posting applications, comments, and scores on the Department of Education's Web site. We congratulate the winners of this year's competition, and we salute the other applicants for their hard work and encourage them to continue reform efforts on behalf of educators, children, and families across the country. We look forward to continuing to support states' efforts to learn from each other and ensure that more children enter kindergarten ready to succeed in school and in life.

Sincerely,

/s/

Arne Duncan
Secretary of Education

/s/

Kathleen Sebelius
Secretary of Health
and Human Services